



COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203

P (303) 866-3441
F (303) 866-4474

John Hickenlooper, Governor

Mike King, DNR Executive Director

James Eklund, CWCB Director

TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Chris Strum, Stream Restoration Coordinator,
Watershed Protection and Flood Mitigation Section

DATE: November 19-20, 2014 Board Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 29d - CWCB's 2015 Project Bill - Construction Fund
Non-Reimbursable Project Investments "En-Bloc" Approval
Colorado Watershed Restoration Program

Introduction

The CWCB supports watershed restoration projects presented by multiple stakeholders with diverse interests. The results are plans and projects designed to satisfy a range of non-consumptive and consumptive water use objectives. Many of these efforts are completed on small budgets funded through several sources of local, state and/or federal funds. There is often a community volunteer component that contributes in-kind services through donated materials and time. The Colorado Watershed Restoration Program (CWRP) has funded 36 projects with over \$1,300,000 since its first grant cycle in January 2009. The projects have leveraged over \$5.50 for every \$1.00 contributed by CWRP.

In recent years Colorado has experienced catastrophic floods, mega-fires, and floods exacerbated by fire scars that have de-stabilized many rivers. Staff is requesting that the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program continue to be funded to aid in post-flood and fire restoration. Staff also requests that the funds be used for non disaster related watershed and stream protection and restoration efforts throughout the state.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board approve this request for the General Assembly to authorize this project and appropriate \$500,000 from the Construction Fund to the Department of Natural Resources for allocation to the CWCB for the Colorado Watershed Restoration Program.





Colorado Watershed Restoration Program

Colorado Water Conservation Board

November 2014 Board Meeting

The Program objective is to provide funding for watershed restoration studies and projects. Special consideration is given to projects that reduce flood hazards, protect infrastructure, stabilize post-fire watersheds, and increase benefits for water supply. Past projects successfully completed with aid from the Construction Fund include post-fire channel stabilization on Trail Creek in the Hayman burn area, channel stabilization and restoration on the North Fork Gunnison River in Paonia, and channel design planning on the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River. Program funding has also been used in conjunction with funding from the Water Quality Control Division to develop a Measureable Results Program (MRP). Studies and projects resulting from this program can have far reaching benefits for water supply, flood recovery, forest restoration (including post-fire), enhancement of aesthetic and environmental quality, recreation, and increased economic benefit. The Program has funded 36 projects since the first grant cycle in January 2009. Total project funding exceeds \$1,300,000. The projects have leveraged over \$5.5 for every \$1 contributed by the Program. The Program is intended for statewide benefit. The map below displays projects funded since 2009.

P R O J E C T D E T A I L S	
<i>Project Cost:</i>	Up to 50% Cost-Share
<i>NRI Funding Request:</i>	\$500,000
<i>Funding Source:</i>	Construction Fund
<i>Project Type:</i>	Watershed Protection
<i>Type of Grantee:</i>	State Agency/Watershed

L O C A T I O N	
<i>Benefits:</i>	Statewide
<i>Water Source:</i>	Various
<i>Drainage Basin:</i>	All Basins

Colorado Watershed Restoration Program Grant Projects 2009 - 2013

